

**Esther H. Vassar
Esther H. Vassar Enterprise
1548 Winthroe Drive
Newport News, Virginia 23602**

January 15, 2002

Ms. Renata Hesse
Antitrust Division
Department of Justice
601 D Street NW, Suite 1200
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Ms. Hesse:

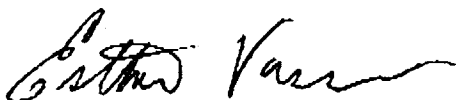
I am pleased to have the opportunity to comment on the Microsoft case proposed settlement.

I understand that Microsoft has agreed, as part of the settlement, to document and disclose various interfaces that are internal to Windows operating system products. They will disclose this information to their competitors. If that is what it takes to settle this lawsuit, then I am in favor of such disclosure and sharing of information.

I use Microsoft software in my business. Small businesses like mine are able to start up quickly with software like Windows. My computer system came with the software already downloaded and ready to go. I believe that products like Windows allow more individuals like me to start their own businesses, often working from their homes. In places like Richmond and Tidewater telecommuting will help ease horrendous traffic conditions.

The events of September 11 and after have depressed the US economy, particularly the technology sector. We need actions by our government that stimulates new business, not the opposite. I am hopeful that the provisions like the one cited above can bring an end to this costly and time-consuming case.

Sincerely yours,



Esther H. Vassar